

From: Elliot Shell
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I want to go on record as strongly opposing severe sanctions against Microsoft. I believe, as do many of my colleagues and business associates, that most of Microsoft's problems stem from its success and creativity.

Microsoft's long history (more than two decades is a long time in the computer industry) of recruiting the best and the brightest has paid significant dividends. The inability of Microsoft's competitors to effectively compete in the marketplace largely resulted in the call for government help in the form of the antitrust actions.

While I do understand that Microsoft has undoubtedly been guilty of technical violation of certain antitrust rules, I believe that the proposed sanctions go far beyond what is fair and appropriate. Especially in these times of serious economic challenges, it would be unbecoming of the United States to unduly punish one of our most successful and innovative businesses.

I think we should instead be encouraging and applauding such attributes.

Elliot Shell